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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In answer to inquiries, we would suggest that the best way to prepare the Musical Times for the binder, is to preserve it complete—the advertisements being amongst the most interesting records of the time. To those who suggest that we should make a separate paging for the music, we would point out the difficulty arising from odd pages—three or five, which often occur; but in that case we print advertisements to back the music, so as to leave the Brief Chronicle, &c., complete on the other sheets, for those who wish to use the music separately.

Rho. is thanked for the interesting relic by John Saville, it shall appear in an early number.

The Rev. J. H. S. The Anthem by Creighton is most welcome; our subscribers shall have it soon.

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

Dr. Greene's pathetic Anthem, "Lord let me know mine end," is given in our present number in remembrance of the lamented loss of Her late Majesty QUEEN ADELAIDE, which has occurred since our last publication. The appearance of our Tribute, at the earliest possible occasion, will doubtless prove acceptable to our subscribers.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, EXETER HALL, Sig. Costa, Conductor.—This society will produce Mendelssohn's *Saint Paul*, on the 11th of January, and will probably repeat it. The society have chosen their time judiciously, for the repeated performances of the *Messiah*, an Oratorio with which all the members are thoroughly conversant, has enabled them to bestow all their practice evenings on the study of Mendelssohn's greatest work, the result is that *Saint Paul* will be produced, on the 11th of January, with an effect never yet attained either in England or abroad. The first performance of *Saint Paul* by this society, and which was also its first public performance in London, marked an era in the society's fortune; for then it was that they first ventured on the use of the large room for a performance, relying solely on their own resources. To those who remember that interesting evening, the performance of the 11th Jan. will offer a good opportunity of noticing the progress made since then; and not the least part of that improvement will be found amongst the regular listening members, whose pleasure from a more intimate acquaintance with the great Mendelssohn's works, we may venture to say, will be twenty-fold.

DR. MAINZER'S NORMAL MUSIC SCHOOLS.—We had the pleasure of attending, yesterday afternoon, a private rehearsal of Dr. Mainzer's pupils, which took place in his room, Newall's Buildings, before the Lord Bishop and Mayor of Manchester. The younger portion of the pupils displayed great facility in reading music at sight, and also in singing some elementary pieces. The elder scholars sang selections from *Judas Maccabæus*. The Right Rev. Prelate expressed his satisfaction to Dr. Mainzer of the proficiency of the classes, particularly noticing the progress of the younger pupils.—*Manchester Examiner*.

MENDELSSOHN'S SAINT PAUL is to be performed in the Concert Hall at Manchester, on the 11th January. It is also in rehearsal for early production at Liverpool, Bristol, and Dublin.

MANCHESTER MADRIGAL SOCIETY.—This is one of the most interesting of our musical societies, from the fact of its members consisting principally of amateurs, who take part in its vocal practice. Very few professionals are among the number, and we thought we observed fewer on the present than on former occasions. As musical education spreads, let us hope that other societies founded upon the same principle may arise among us. There is no social recreation more pleasant or refining in its influences, whilst opportunities would often arise, of a public character, wherein the services of such additional force might be made most important. We hear of large masses of voices being brought together on festive occasions in Germany and France, and we find similar announcements from the choral societies recently established in London; in all of these, however, it should be understood, that the expenses of such large choirs are very considerably reduced by gratuitous service on the part of, perhaps, three-fourths of those engaged in the performance. We have scarcely yet arrived at that spirit of independence, and that true feeling for the art, in this part of the country, though we are not without a desire to make the world believe as much. The Madrigal Society demands our attention and sympathy on this ground alone, but its qualities and conduct are equally deserving of notice. Occasionally we find it gathering its members and their friends by the hill-side, or in the green meadows, and annually we have a treat presented to us similar to the one of Tuesday evening last, which we may pronounce in all respects highly creditable to those engaged, and full of promise for the future. In the book of words, each piece was introduced by a few lines having reference to the merits of the writer, the period in which he flourished, with the date of his birth and death. Among those pieces, the popularity of which was distinguished by the greatest meed of applause, we may name a manuscript composition by the able conductor, "I praised earth in beauty seen;" it displayed a beautiful solemnity in its harmonies, and a very truthful adaptation of the words,—at all times evidence of a right feeling. A short, quaint production by Converso (1575), and another one of the modern school, reached the same distinction, "Sweete flowers! ye were too faire." It is from the pen of Dr. Walmisley, Professor of Music in the University of Cambridge; a gentleman whose very superior attainments are well known in the musical world. Many of his father's glees will be familiar to our readers as among the favourites of our glee clubs. The present composition is full of elegant thought, and a clever imitation of the quaint style of the old madrigalians. It certainly taxed the powers of the choir, but was admirably given, and proved most effective. The attendance was very numerous, and the gratification seemed general;—to those who take an interest in this class of music, we can scarcely imagine a more delightful evening.—*Manchester Examiner*.

MUSIC AT MANCHESTER.—Since the visit of Miss Hayes and party, we have been tolerably quiet here in musical matters. I must, however, except the Monday evening concerts, which, in thirteen weeks, have been attended by at least fifty thousand persons; this is cheering, when we know that among these vast multitudes are to be found those who had been accustomed to spend their evenings in dissipation at the tavern music saloons, with its coarse and obscene

BRIEF CHRONICLE (continued).

ballads. The *moral* effect of these truly monster musical gatherings is beyond calculating—we can there see the clean-washed factory operatives side by side with the more fortunate merchant; in fine, we have met pastors, magistrates, members of Parliament, men distinguished alike in every branch of learning and science, who have, with one heart and one soul, applauded at these elevating musical meetings. For this boon we are mainly indebted to the enterprise and discernment of Mr. H. B. Peacock, who has done, and is *now* doing more for the progress of the musical art, than any other body of gentlemen in this neighbourhood. It is under this gentleman's superior guidance that these weekly concerts have been found to eschew everything that could possibly pander to a vitiated taste. The staple commodity is glee, chorus, and ballad, judiciously culled from the works of our best British authors, and often embodying some good nautical sentiment. These secular entertainments are frequently varied by oratorios; and you will be glad to learn that our friend Jackson's *Deliverance* is now in course of rehearsal, and will soon be brought out. Every praise is due to the talented *chef* of the orchestra, Mr. Banks, for the interest he is taking to render justice to this talented production of the modest Yorkshireman. I may just name that Mr. Jackson's fine Glee, *Sisters of the glen*, was received most rapturously at these concerts a week ago; to-night we have a "Night with Bishop;" to-morrow (Christmas Day) *Judas Maccabæus* is to be given, with Mr. Sims Reeves and party as principals. A regular *cram* is expected, as our country friends flock in large numbers to this annual performance of Oratorio, and on which occasion we have frequently been gratified by beholding these earnest worshippers at the shrine of genius, with their unique copy of the work performed placed before them, and following most intently each successive piece, at times giving vent to their enthusiasm in a manner that would, we are sure, disturb the equanimity of the aristocratic *habitués* of the Hanover-square Rooms.—*From a Correspondent.*

CLAPHAM.—We are glad to hear that a good beginning was made on the 13th of December, when the first of a series of concerts was given in the presence of the Rector, the Rev. Wentworth Bowyer, and other distinguished inhabitants of the neighbourhood. In addition to some good solo and concerted vocal music, in which Miss Rainforth, Messrs. F. Bodda, Leffler, &c. &c., took part, there was some instrumental music of a superior order, executed by Mr. Dando, Mr. Williams, Mr. T. Hill, and the conductor of the concerts, Mr. J. G. Boardman. We also learn that the Clapham Choral Society, and several elementary classes, have their regular weekly meetings in the same vicinity.

MUSICAL REHEARSAL.—On the 11th December, the members of the Newcastle and Gateshead Temperance Choral Society gave their first public rehearsal in the Victoria Room, Grey-street, Newcastle, to a numerous and highly respectable audience. The music, consisting of songs, duets, trios, glees, and choruses (the latter sustained by above thirty singers), was sung with great effect, under the efficient direction of Mr. James Pyburn, the leader of the society, almost every piece being encored.*—*From a Correspondent.*—[* A custom which we have always considered highly objectionable on many accounts, and which should not be made a test of merit.—Ed. M.T.]

DUNDEE.—We see by the *Northern Warden*, that Handel, Haydn, Rossini, Mozart, Bellini, and other composers, are beginning to be introduced to the knowledge of a northern public by means of the Dundee Choral Society, who gave specimens of all these composers' works on the 12th December. The performers were local—a good sign,—and the prices, at which the public were admitted, almost nominal. The large attendance gave assurance of the public interest it excited.

ST. MARTIN'S HALL, LONG ACRE, will be officially opened about the middle of January, when several entertainments of a more or less public nature will be given. The Choruses of one of Mozart's great but less known Operas, *Idomeneo*, and a festival Anthem, to words from the 68th Psalm, by an English composer, H. Leslie, Esq., will be amongst the novelties.

CONCERTS FOR JANUARY.—Mr. John Parry's on 5th, Mr. Allcroft's on 14th, Mr. A. Billet's on 15th and 29th.

ADVERTISEMENTS

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* * This will be found to contain a list of Anthems and Services by all the principal English Church Composers. The majority of them are printed not only in Vocal score with a separate Accompaniment for the Organ, but also in separate Vocal parts. For the engraving, a large character has been used, both for the music and words, to compensate for the imperfect light in many churches and cathedrals, and the utmost attention has been made to render the copies as correct as possible.

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* * In the press, a Reprint of the Catalogues 4 and 5, at the Reduced Prices, now nearly ready.